

Appl. No. : **09/470,377**
Filed : **December 22, 1999**

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2006, Applicant has amended the application as above. Claim 7 has been cancelled, without prejudice. No amendments have been made to the remaining claims. Upon the entry of the amendments, Claims 1, 2, 8-11, 16-18, 21 and 22 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments.

Discussion of Patentability of Pending Claims

Claims 1, 2, 8-11, 16-18, 21 and 22 have been allowed, over the prior art of record, by the Examiner. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,369,803 to Brisebois, et. al. In order to expedite the prosecution of the application, Applicant has cancelled rejected Claim 7. However, Applicant reserves the right to argue patentability of Claim 7 at a later date.

Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicant wishes to address the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in this Office Action mailed February 24, 2006. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims should be allowed based on the entire language rather than focusing on any specific portion thereof.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: 

Eric M. Nelson
Registration No. 43,829
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

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